

**“Sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel”**

Isaiah 12:2

The third Sunday of Advent, so called from the first word of the Introit at Mass (*Gaudete*, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November). St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. Rose-coloured vestments are worn instead of purple (or black, as formerly). *Gaudete* Sunday signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. Of the "stations" kept in Rome the four Sundays of Advent, that at the Vatican basilica is assigned to *Gaudete*, as being the most important and imposing of the four. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasized on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. *Gaudete* Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The Nocturn lessons from the Prophecy of Isaiah describe the Lord's coming and the blessings that will result from it, and the antiphons at Vespers re-echo the prophetic promises. The joy of expectation is emphasized by the constant Alleluias, which occur in both Office and Mass throughout the entire season. In the Mass, the Introit "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" strikes the same note, and gives its name to the day. The Epistle again incites us to rejoicing, and bids us prepare to meet the coming Saviour with prayers and supplication and thanksgiving, whilst the Gospel, the words of St. John Baptist, warns us that the Lamb of God is even now in our midst, though we appear to know Him not. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on *Gaudete* Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.



Catholic Parishes of St Mary, Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.
Fr. Stephen Fawcett and Fr Shanju John
The Presbytery, Summerhill,
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13TH DECEMBER 2020

PSALM RESPONSE

My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

"Christ, come into our world of darkness, light up our lives with your coming. Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth. Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world and to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings. Amen."

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD



Ordinary (Advent 2)	Psalter week 3	Intention/Info
Sunday 12th/13th Third Sunday of Advent	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Michael Scott People of the Parish
Monday 14th St John of the Cross		
Tuesday 15th	10am Mass OH 10.30am -11am OH	Adoration
Wednesday 16th	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Fr Stephen Adoration
Thursday 17th		
Friday 18th	10.30am -11am KF 11am Mass KF	Adoration Sadie Murphy
Saturday 19th		
Sunday 19th/20th Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Thanksgiving Pat and David Horner People of the Parish

Please pray for those who have died recently, those on our December deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Francis Chin, Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Catherine Greenaway, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Michael Rose, Anne Peters, Francis Theseira, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

Collections will be reported as monies are banked and not necessarily weekly: BH: GA £, Loose £, KF : GA £ OH GA £.

FOODBANKS - both our foodbanks have now reopened to help those in need. If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations - the need is growing and donations are much needed at this difficult time for so many people

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

6pm	Old Hill	Fr Van
6pm	Brierley Hill	Fr Greatbatch
7pm	Kingswinford	Fr Shanju

Christmas Day

9.30am	Brierley Hill	Fr Shanju
10.30am	Kingswinford	Fr Greatbatch
11am	Old Hill	Fr Shanju

There will be no carol singing before Mass and no congregational singing during Masses. **SPACE WILL BE RESTRICTED.** If you know of anyone planning to come to Mass who does not normally attend our Churches, please make them aware of the situation. Masks will need to be worn and people may have to be turned away if we have reached our capacity under the current rules. There is a sign up sheet at the rear of Church for each Mass. Please add your name to this so we can have some idea of how many people will be coming to each Mass and plan accordingly. NB this does not guarantee you a place as this will be on a first come first served basis.

Parish Website - This will not be updated regularly at the moment but the newsletter will be posted on the Deanery website Dudley-catholicdeanery.org.uk

Christmas flowers If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of Christmas flowers please place it in an envelope clearly marked and give to Fr Shanju or place it in the collection basket. Thank you

St Mary's School If you have young children and are considering a pre-school our Parish school prospectus is available at the back of Church. You can contact the school on 01384 818435 or email admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk. Enquiries are also welcome for places in school.